

Classification of Polar Verbs in Maithili¹⁾

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0. Introduction

The problem of defining and identifying the functions of a set of verbs known as VECTOR verbs (or call them 'aspectual', 'auxiliary', 'operators' or 'explicators', if you may) has been tackled on both formal and functional grounds by many with varying degree of success. However, there are certain other aspects of the problems of COMPOUND VERB which have not been paid much attention to. This paper deals with some such relatively less explored areas of compound verb studies with special reference to Maithili, an eastern NIA language. In particular, the following aspects have been looked into:

- i. What is the relative frequency of occurrence of vector verbs in Maithili?
- ii. Which verbs cannot function as polars no matter what follows as the vector?
- iii. Can polar verbs be classified depending on which vectors they combine with, and on how many they can occur with?
- iv. Do polar verbs show at least some sort of (partial) complementary distribution as regards to their selection of particular vectors?

1) An earlier version of this paper was presented in the Seminar on Lexicography at the Central Institute of Hindi, Agra (10-22 December, 1979) under the following title: 'Dictionary-Representation of Polar Verbs on the Basis of their Combinability with Vectors in Maithili'. I am grateful to K. V. Subbarao, Peter Hook, Prem Singh, R. N. Srivastava, Gopal Sharma, B. G. Misra, E. Annamalai, and Sudhir Mathur for comments and criticisms.

1.1 Polars and probable vectors selected

To provide an answer to each of these questions, it was obligatory for one to look into polar+vector combinations in Maithili on a larger scale. For this purpose in all about 200 polar verbs and 19 more which could act as both polar and vector verbs were selected. This made the total number of verbs selected for polar slot 219. The 19 verbs that were selected as 'probable' vectors were those that in languages related to Maithili functioned as 'vectors'. One could easily eliminate non-vectors from this list if one found out (i) that no verb could act as a polar member if a particular 'probable' vector was used, or (ii) that if one or more compound verb tests (which would include DO-insertion, Verb interrogation, Negation, By-the-time, Until, Phasal verb, Apprehension, Compound verb reduction, Contradiction, and Incompletion²⁾ tests) failed a particular verb in its bid to 'vector'-ship. Probably, one should also suspect if a particular 'probable' vector turned out to be able to occur with all the polars. One could guess that in such a case, it was acting as a regular functor marking aspect of some kind. The probable vectors that were taken in the present study included the following: *le* 'take', *de* 'give', *jaa* 'go', *mar* 'die', *uTh* 'get up', *bais* 'sit', *aa* 'come', *paR* 'fall', *rakh* 'keep', *cal* 'move', *paThaa* 'send', *dekh* 'see', *maar* 'kill', *nikal* 'come out', *dhar* 'place, hold', *nikaal* 'bring out', *aan* 'bring', *pheⁿk* 'throw' (cp. Bengali *phEl* 'throw'), and *khas* 'fall'. A list of 219 main verbs is given in the appendix along with gloss, and hence the meaning of these will not be repeated in the frequency and co-occurrence matrices in the text.

1.2 Frequency of occurrence of 19 probable vectors

Having taken into account all possible permutations and combinations that would involve 219 polar and 19 'probable' vectors, and by separating the acceptable compound verb combinations from the unacceptable, a few things could be observed quite clearly. First, the list of polars contained at least two verbs which did not participate in such combinations at all, no matter which of the 'probable' vectors was selected, and these included *caah* 'want' and *aan* 'bring'. Hook (1978: 144) noted that in Hindi too there were some such verbs, and that they included *caah* 'want', *rakh* 'possess, have' and *kahlāa* 'be called'. In Maithili, *aan*-V combination, wherever possible, would give a verbal compound reading. Therefore these two verbs could be excluded from the list of 219 for the purposes of calculation. Secondly, of the 217 verbs, *pheⁿk* and *khas* could not occur with any polar verb. This would be clear from the table 1 which gives an account of the number of polars a particular probable vector can occur with:

2) For details regarding these tests, see Singh (1980), especially chapter 6.

Table 1: Frequency of occurrence of 19 'probable' vectors with 217 verbs used as polars

VECTORS	GLOSS	NUMBER OF OCCURRENCE	PERCENTAGE (in %)
le	Take	128	58.99
de	Give	119	54.84
jaa	Go	104	47.93
mar	Die	66	30.41
uTh	Get up	55	25.34
bais	Sit	44	20.28
aa	Come	26	11.98
paR	Fall	23	10.69
rakh	Keep	18	8.29
cal	Move	13	5.99
paThaa	Send	11	5.07
dekh	See	8	3.69
maar	Kill	6	2.76
nikal	Come out	5	2.3
dhar	Hold	5	2.3
nikaal	Bring out	5	2.3
aan	Bring	2	0.92
phe ⁿ k	Throw	0	0.00
khas	Fall	0	0.00

This table would thus clearly show that the last two 'probable' vectors must be dropped from the list of vectors, thereby making the total 17 instead of 19. Notice that the percentage calculation in Table 1 was done for each vector from a total of 217, and hence the last column would not add up to 100.00.

1.3 Mono-vector polar verbs in Maithili

Table 1 also shows that the major vector verbs in Maithili are the following: *le*, *de*, *jaa*, *mar*, *uTh*, *bais*, *aa* and *paR*. These occur with more than 10% of the polars. Now if one looks for verbs which can occur with only 'one' of the vectors, and not with any other, one would find out that there are 38 such verbs in this list of 217. If these eight vectors are the commonest in Maithili one would expect that all the 38 'mono-vector' polar verbs (i.e., those that can select one and only one vector) should select vectors only from this list of eight. It turns out to be true when we find out that they occur with only the following:

Table 2: Mono-Vector Polars in Maithili (38, in total) and Their Vector-Selection:

VECTORS	NUMBER	POLARS
le	2	aj ² maa; 10
de	2	ugar; jhaTak
mar	2	daug; phaa ⁿ s
paR	1	khas

jaa

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aⁿTak; aⁿT; aR; aa; upaj; utar; unaT/ulaT; kaT;
 kasaa; ghaT; ghasak; chiTak; chuuT; juRaa;
 jhul; TuuT; Duub; Dhak; Dhah; pac; paak;
 pasar; paab; phaⁿs; phaT; phaaT; phuut; bac;
 baraa; baⁿT; baⁿTaa.

These two tables together would help us classify 17 vectors into three broad types depending on their frequency of occurrence: (I) Very frequent: *le*, *de*, *jaa*, *mar*, *paR*; (II) More or less frequent: *uTh*, *basi*, *aa*, *rakh*, *cal*, *paThaa*; (III) Infrequent vectors: *dekh*, *maar*, *nikal*, *dhar*, *nikaal* and *aan*. Towards the end of this paper, more evidences in support of the above frequency-based arrangement of vectors will be presented.

2.1 Hook's classification of polar verbs in Hindi and logical possibilities of polar-types in Maithili

Coming to the question of classification of polar verbs on the basis of their co-occurrence (restrictions) with the vectors, one has to admit that the only serious attempt to classify polar verbs depending on this criterion that has come to light recently is that of Hook (1978) where he summarizes the findings of Hook (1974), and tries to go beyond the latter work. In this paper, Hook (1978: 144) suggested the following classification of polar verbs in Hindi:

Table 3: Classification of polar verbs in Hindi (cf. Hook, 1978):

CLASSES	NATURE	VECTORS TAKEN	POLARS
<i>huwaadi</i>	Intransitive	<i>jaa</i>	<i>ho</i> 'become', <i>bETH</i> 'sit', <i>uTh</i> 'get up'
<i>ruwaadi</i>	Intransitive	<i>de</i>	<i>ro</i> 'cry', <i>haⁿs</i> 'laugh', <i>cal</i> 'set out', <i>muskaraa</i> 'smile', etc.
<i>samjhaadi</i>	Transitive	<i>jaa</i> , <i>le</i>	<i>samajh</i> 'understand', <i>jaan</i> 'find out', <i>maan</i> 'accept, admit'
<i>liyaadi</i>	Transitive Reflexive	<i>le</i>	<i>le</i> , 'take', <i>khaa</i> 'eat', <i>dekh</i> 'see', <i>chin</i> 'grab', etc.
<i>diyaadi</i>	Transitive	<i>de</i>	<i>de</i> 'give', <i>nikal</i> 'eject', <i>pheⁿk</i> 'throw', <i>choR</i> 'let go off', etc.
<i>karaadi</i>	Transitive	<i>le</i> , <i>de</i>	<i>kar</i> 'do', <i>karaa</i> 'have (someone) do', <i>rakh</i> 'put, set', etc.
<i>jaadi</i>	Exceptional	—	<i>jaa</i> 'go', <i>bhuul</i> (- <i>jaa</i>) 'forget', <i>le</i> (- <i>aa</i>) 'bring', <i>bajaa</i> (- <i>laa</i>) 'carry out', etc.
<i>cahaadi</i>	Stative	None	<i>caah</i> 'want', <i>rakh</i> 'possess/have', <i>kahlaa</i> 'be called', etc.

The author of this typology had himself noted that 'this classification' of the main verbs in Hindi is highly approximative if not actually misleading' (Hook, 1978: 144). In fact, it is both approximative and misleading. In the first place,

it gives an impression that Hook somehow tries to force the PaaNinian classification of Sanskrit verbs into Hindi polar verbs. There is nothing objectionable if such a classification works in this case but the fact is that it does not. Since Hook has about 22 vectors in his study of Hindi compound verbs, one would expect him to use all of them in such a classification. But he concentrates only on three vectors: *jaa*, *de* and *le*. Secondly, *jaadi* seems to be a storehouse for exceptions and irregularities. Thirdly, if one takes up the logical possibilities of combination one will probably guess that the higher the number of probable vectors in a language, the greater is the number of (polar)verb-types. In that case an eight-way classification as in table 3 is bound to look very simplistic³⁾.

The last point needs a little more elaboration. Let us take up the case of Maithili where the probable vectors are 17 in number. Now some polars are found to be occurring with only one of the 17 vectors and not with others. Such verbs were called mono-vector polar. It was also noted that they were 38 in number. Similarly, one would expect some polars to allow only two of the 17 vectors to occur with them. This would make logically possible 'Two-Vector Combinations' 136 in total. One can, thus, go on calculating the possibilities for mono-vector to those instances where some polars could hypothetically take all the 17 vectors. Such a computation would give rise to the following table :

Table 4: Logical possibilities of polar-types on the basis of their occurrence with *n*-number of vectors (out of a total of 17) *r*-at a time:

TYPES OF COMBINATIONS		MAXIMUM POSSIBILITIES
a.	Mono-Vector	17
b.	Two-Vector	136
c.	Three-Vector	680
d.	Four-Vector	2380
e.	Five-Vector	6188
f.	Six-Vector	12376
g.	Seven-Vector	19448
h.	Eight-Vector	24310
i.	Nine-Vector	24310
j.	Ten-Vector	19448
k.	Eleven-Vector	12376
l.	Twelve-Vector	6188
m.	Thirteen-Vector	2380
n.	Fourteen-Vector	680
o.	Fifteen-Vector	136
p.	Sixteen-Vector	17
q.	Seventeen-Vector	1
Total number of polar verb-types:		131071

3) Hook (in personal communication) told me later that the purpose of this classification was not to be exhaustive and that was why out of 22 vectors only a few were used (cf. table 3).

To this total of 131071, one could probably add one more type which has verbs that do not take any vector. Now, this total would increase if a language has more than 17 vectors—a language such as Hindi. Therefore, this again goes on to prove that a classification such as in table 3 is only impressionistic.

2.2 Grammatically possible polar-types in Maithili

If one considered all the 217 verbs to find out as to how many of these logical possibilities as noted in table 4 were grammatically possible the result would be the following:

Table 5: Grammatically possible polar-types as compared to the logical possibilities in table 4:

TYPES OF COMBINATIONS		GRAMMATICAL POSSIBILITIES ⁴⁾
a.	Mono-Vector	5
b.	Two-Vector	15
c.	Three-Vector	20
d.	Four-Vector	18
e.	Five-Vector	11
f.	Six-Vector	7
g.	Seven-Vector	3
h.	Eight-Vector	4
i-q.	Nine to Seventeen-Vector	None
Total number of polar verb-types		83

Table 5 suggests that there are probably 83 types of verbs that 'can' function as polars in compound verb formation. One can, however, talk of eight broad 'generalized' classes of polars depending on how many vectors a particular polar can occur with. The mono-vector polars have already been listed earlier. In the following section all other combinations are explored into.

2.3 Distribution of polars in different vector-combinations: A summary

As noted in table 5, there are about 15 two vector combinations and they include mainly four possible sub-types: (i) *le* and another vector, (ii) *de* and another vector, (iii) *jaa* and another vector, and (iv) *aa* and *rakh* forming a class by themselves. In all, there are 59 verbs that fall into two-vector category distributed over these 15 sub-types. Similarly, one can try to find out how many of these 217 verbs fall in one of these eight broad combination-types. This will give rise to the following table:

4) Notice that some of the scores in this and other tables may change if one searches through the whole verb lexicon of Maithili, and comes out with a few more types of combinations involving these vectors.

Table 6: Distribution of polars in different vector-combinations
(out of a total of 217 polars)

	VECTOR COMBINATIONS	NUMBER OF POLARS OPTING FOR IT	PERCENTAGE (%)
a.	Mono-Vector	38	17.51
b.	Two-Vector	59	27.19
c.	Three-Vector	63	29.03
d.	Four-Vector	27	12.44
e.	Five-Vector	15	6.91
f.	Six-Vector	8	3.69
g.	Seven-Vector	3	1.38
h.	Eight-Vector	4	1.84

Now it would be natural to expect that in the 83 grammatically possible vector-combinations (cf. Table 5), more frequent vectors would participate comparatively in a greater number of instances than the less frequent or the infrequent ones. Thus, if one prepares a frequency-table on the basis of occurrence of 17 vectors one can test whether the general frequency table 1 in 1.2. is correct. In all 17 vectors are selected 317 times in the 83 vector-combinations. This gives rise to the following table:

Table 7: Frequency of occurrence of 17 vectors in 83 vector-combinations
where they occur 317 times:

	VECTORS	NUMBER OF OCCURRENCE	PERCENTAGE (%)
	le	50	15.77
	de	50	15.77
	jaa	39	12.30
	mar	37	11.67
	paR	14	4.42
	uTh	28	8.83
	bais	32	10.09
	aa	12	3.79
	rakh	14	4.42
	cal	10	3.15
	paThaa	7	2.21
	dekh	6	1.89
	maar	5	1.58
	nikal	2	0.63
	dhar	5	1.58
	nikaal	4	1.26
	aan	2	0.63

A comparison of tables 1 and 7 will establish beyond doubt that the three-way

classification of vectors (into frequent, more or less frequent and infrequent) as in 1.3. stands out to be correct.

2.4 Occurrence of 17 vectors in different combinations

In this section the detailed frequency of occurrence of 17 vectors in Mono-Vector to Eight-Vector combinations will be looked into first. After this combinatory possibilities will be analysed in detail. The following table showing a detailed frequency is yet another proof in favour of frequency-based arrangement of vectors talked about in the earlier sections (cf. tables 1 and 7):

Table 8: The detailed frequency-based table showing occurrence of 17 vectors in different combinations (where the total number of vectors occurring in a particular combination-type is indicated in parentheses):

VECTORS	MONO (5)	TWO (30)	THREE (60)	FOUR (72)	FIVE (55)	SIX (42)	SEVEN (21)	EIGHT (32)
le	20.00	13.33	20.00	15.28	20.00	14.29	9.52	9.38
de	20.00	13.33	16.66	18.06	18.18	14.29	9.52	12.50
jaa	20.00	30.00	15.00	8.72	7.27	7.14	14.29	9.38
mar	20.00	6.66	8.33	15.28	10.90	14.29	9.52	12.50
paR	20.00	3.33	6.66	—	1.82	9.52	4.76	6.25
uTh	—	3.33	11.66	5.56	9.09	14.29	9.92	9.38
bais	—	6.66	5.00	11.11	12.73	11.90	14.29	12.50
aa	—	6.66	5.00	4.17	1.82	—	9.52	3.13
rakh	—	6.66	1.66	5.56	3.64	2.38	9.52	6.25
cal	—	3.33	—	2.78	3.64	2.38	4.76	9.38
paThaa	—	—	1.66	4.17	3.64	—	—	3.13
dekh	—	—	1.66	1.39	3.64	4.76	—	—
maar	—	—	3.33	1.39	—	2.38	—	3.13
nikal	—	3.33	—	1.39	—	—	4.76	—
dhar	—	3.33	1.66	1.39	—	2.38	—	3.13
nikaal	—	—	1.66	1.39	1.82	—	—	—
aan	—	—	—	1.39	1.82	—	—	—

It can be very clearly seen from the frequency table given above that there are more gaps in case of the vectors which have been rated low independently. Moreover in this table the higher one goes, the greater is the percentage-wise frequency of occurrence.

2.5 A detailed distribution of 217 polars in different vector combinations

Now one could probably go into the detailed distribution of 217 polars into different vector-combination types. This will lead one to a more generalized classification of these verbs than simply grouping them into 83 types. Leaving aside

the 38 polars that can participate only in Mono-Vector combinations, we will now look into the rest of the verbs. The following 59 verbs can participate in Two-Vector combinations of the following types:

Table 9: 59 polar verbs as distributed in 15 Two-Vector combinations:

le & de:	au ^{ns} ; ukhaaR; oRhaa; kaaT; katar; kuuT; khaT; khurac; kheh; ghas ^a kaa; chap ^a waa; jiitaa; tyaag; thamh; thop; dhuus; palaT; pha ⁿ saa; bhaR ^a kaa; bhuuj; ochaa; Taar; Tiip; Thak; bacaa; rakh; maar
le & jaa:	suut; uTh; bais
le & rakh:	dekh
le & dhar:	oRh
de & jaa:	it ^a raa
de & mar:	phe ⁿ k
de & bais:	paThaa
jaa & mar:	aghaa; tiit
jaa & paR:	cuuw; dhas; paR
jaa & uTh:	gaR; jaag; jhalak; Dar; Dol; thaak; bhaRak
jaa & bais:	a ⁿ eTh; dab
jaa & aa:	odar; kam; khul; khap; juR
jaa & cal:	baj
jaa & nikal:	chap; tar; phar
aa & rakh:	gher

The Three-Vector combinations have 20 possible triads which are selected by about 63 polars, and this fact could again be tabularly presented in the following manner:

Table 10: 63 polar verbs as distributed in 20 Three-Vector Combinations:

le, de & jaa:	utaar; unTaa; chiRiaa; jhar ^a kaa; saj; jhal ^a kaa; Tap; dabaa; baa ⁿ c
le, de & mar:	khodh; khol; gaaR; gan; guu ⁿ th; chaa ⁿ T; jap; jaa ⁿ t; joR; Taa ⁿ k; Thuus; Thel; Thok; Dho; daab; duuh; naap
le, de & uTh:	aa ⁿ c; kaan; Thaan; Daa ⁿ T; dhop; baar
le, de & bais:	galaa; ghaTaa; choR; nikaal
le, de & rakh:	paRh
le, de & paThaa:	mang ^a waa
le, de & dekh:	ciikh; cobh
le, de & maar:	Daraa; anThaa
le, de & dhar:	pasaar
le, de & nikal:	taak
le, jaa & mar:	mar
le, jaa & paR:	leT
jaa, mar & paR:	ruuk
jaa, mar & uTh:	jharak; laag
jaa, uTh & paR:	cau ⁿ k; bar
jaa, uTh & bais:	akhaR

jaa, uTh & aa: kas; jam; phur; saR
 jaa, paR & aa: ukhaR; gal; jhuk; nikal
 uTh, bais & aa: ucar
 uTh, mar & maar: aunaa; jhapaT

In case of Four-Vector combinations we find as noted earlier only 27 polars to be occurring. The number of such accepted combinations is 18 as the following table would indicate:

Table 11: 27 polar verbs as distributed in 18 Four-Vector combinations:

le, de, jaa & mar:	uR
le, de, jaa & bais:	jiit
le, de, mar & uTh:	naac; niip; haa ⁿ k
le, de, mar & bais:	thakuc; pakaa; phaaR; phoR; kiin; gii
le, de, mar & dekh:	gaab; cabaa
le, de, mar & aan:	gaRh
le, de, uTh & paThaa :	bajaa
le, de, bais & dhar:	odaar
le, de, aa & nikaal:	chaap
le, jaa, mar & bais:	giiR
le, de, bais & maar:	khii ⁿ c
de, mar, bais & rakh:	khuaa
de, bais, rakh & paThaa:	de
de, jaa, mar & aa:	aguaa
jaa, mar, uTh & aa:	jar, khisiaa
jaa, mar, cal & nikal:	bhaag
jaa, bais, rakh & paThaa:	jaa
mar, uTh, rakh & cal:	cikar

Five-Vector combinations number 11, and 15 out of 217 verbs opt for them as the following table would show:

Table 12: 15 polar verbs as distributed in 11 Five-Vector combinations:

le, de, jaa, uTh & aa:	bhar
le, de, jaa, bais & dekh:	khaa
le, de, jaa, mar & bais:	lep; luuT
le, de, mar, uTh & bais:	phaa ⁿ k; baa ⁿ T; noc; rok
le, de, mar, uTh & rakh:	Tok
le, de, mar, bais & rakh:	jot
le, de, mar, bais & paThaa:	maang
le, de, bais, dekh & aan:	kamaa
le, de, uTh, bais & cal:	toR
le, de, uTh, paThaa & nikaal:	aa ⁿ k
le, de, mar, paR & cal:	ha ⁿ T

There are fewer verbs, in all 8, that opt for Six-Vector combinations, and they are as follows:

Table 13: 8 polar verbs as distributed in 7 Six-Vector combinations:

le, de, jaa, uTh, bais & dekh:	kO (~kar)
le, de, mar, paR, uTh & bais:	jhagaR; phaana
le, de, mar, paR, uTh, & cal:	ha ^{ns}
le, de, mar, paR, uTh & dekh:	baaj
le, de, mar, bais, rakh & dhar:	dhO (~dhar)
le, jaa, mar, paR, uTh & bais:	rah
de, jaa, mar, uTh, bais & maar:	ag ^u taa

Only 3 polars opt for Seven-Vector combinations such as follows:

Table 14: 3 polar verbs as distributed in 3 Seven-Vector combinations:

le, de, jaa, mar, uTh, bais & rakh:	piib
le, de, jaa, paR, bais, aa & rakh:	jaan
jaa, mar, uTh, bais, aa, cal & nikal:	ug

Of the 217 polars that we looked into, only 4 selected 4-types of Eight-Vector combinations, and they include the following:

Table 15: 4 polar verbs as distributed in 4 Eight-Vector combinations:

le, de, jaa, mar, paR, uTh, bais & cal :	ruus
le, de, jaa, mar, bais, rakh, cal & dhar:	raT
le, de, mar, uTh, bais, rakh, paThaa & maar:	kah
de, jaa, mar, paR, uTh, bais, aa & cal:	cal

2.6 The generalized vector-combination-types

In the preceding section the following questions were considered in detail: Which vectors are selected in forming different combinations, and how many polars opt for a particular combination. By tracing the commonalities in the vector-combination patterns, 83 combination-types could be reduced into the following 35 generalized types:

Table 16: The generalized vector-combination-types:

- a. Mono-Vector Combinations: (1) With *le*, (2) With *de*, (3) With *jaa*, (4) With *mar*, (5) With *paR*;
- b. Two-Vector Combinations: (6) With *le* and another vector, (7) With *de* and another vector, (8) With *jaa* and another vector, (9) With *aa* and *rakh*;

- c. Three-Vector Combinations: (10) With *le*, *de* and another vector, (11) With *le*, *jaa* and another vector, (12) With *jaa*, *paR* and another vector, (13) With *jaa*, *uTh* and another vector, (14) With *uTh*, *bais* and *aa*, (15) With *uTh*, *mar* and *maar*;
- d. Four-Vector Combinations: (16) With *le*, *de*, *mar* and another vector, (17) With *le*, *de*, *bais* and another vector, (18) With *jaa*, *mar*, and two other vectors, (19) With *de*, *bais*, *rakh* and another vector, (20) With *le*, *de* and two other vectors, (21) With *jaa* or *mar* and three 'more or less frequent' vectors;
- e. Five-Vector Combinations: (22) *le*, *de*, *jaa* and two other vectors, (23) *le*, *de*, *mar* and two other vectors, (24) *le*, *de*, *uTh* and two other vectors, (25) *le*, *de*, *bais* and two other vectors, (26) Four 'very frequent' vectors with another vector;
- f. Six-Vector Combinations: (27) With *le*, *de*, *mar*, *paR*, *uTh* and another vector, (28) With *jaa*, *mar*, *uTh*, *bais* and two other vectors, (29) With *le*, *de*, *bais*, and three other vectors;
- g. Seven-Vector Combinations: (30) With *le*, *de*, *jaa*, *bais*, *rakh* and two other vectors, (31) With *jaa*, *mar*, *uTh*, *bais*, *aa*, *cal* and *nikal*;
- h. Eight-Vector Combinations: (32)–(35) As in Table 15.

3. Conclusions

In the preceding paragraphs the problem of selectional restrictions on the polar verbs in terms of taking or rejecting a particular vector was looked into from a new angle. First, 219 polar verbs were taken from Maithili lexicon to pair with 'probable' vectors and it turned out that only 17 verbs could function as true vector in this language. These vectors were classified into three broad types depending on their frequency of occurrence in general (table 1) and in different vector combinations (tables 7 & 8). Secondly, a recent attempt at classification of polars (Hook, 1978) was evaluated. Thirdly, it was shown that although logically there could be a large number of polar-types if the classification of polars depended on which vectors they took and how many they could occur with (table 4), grammatical possibilities were only 83 (table 5). Fourthly, it was suggested that there were only eight broad vector-combinations in Maithili starting from Mono-Vector to Eight-Vector types and that a polar verb in Maithili could not occur with more than eight vectors. Languages could differ in respect of this uppermost limit as is shown in another study of polar-vector combination of seven Indian languages (cf. Singh, Subbarao and Bandyopadhyay, forthcoming). Fifthly, a very elaborate distribution of 217 Maithili polar verbs into 83 different vector-combinations was presented (tables 9 through 15), and finally, a list of generalized vector-combination-types was reached (table 16).

Appendix

Note that abbreviations *I* and *Tr* stand for *Intransitive* and *Transitive*, respectively. Raised vowels are half-short phonetically and a raised *n* indicates nasalisation of the preceding vowel. The cerebral consonants have been transcribed as T, Th, D, Dh, N, R and Rh. Infinitive marker *-ab* has been dropped in each case. The order followed in this list is the same as in *devanaagarii* writing system.

Verbs	Gloss	Verbs	Gloss
akhaR (I)	seem improper	kiin (Tr)	buy
aguaa (I)	move forward	kuut (Tr)	mince
ag ^u taa (I)	hasten	khaT (I)	work for
aghaa (I)	be content/bored	khap (I)	fit in
aj ^a maa (Tr)	test	khas (I)	fall
a ⁿ T (I)	be accommodated	khaa (Tr)	eat
a ⁿ Tak (I)	get stuck	khii ⁿ c (Tr)	drag
anThaa (Tr)	avoid, slacken	khisiaa (I)	cold
aR (I)	stiffen	khuaa (Tr)	feed
aa (I)	come	khurac (Tr)	scrape
aa ⁿ k (Tr)	draw, paint	khul (I)	open up
aa ⁿ c (Tr)	light a stove	kheh (Tr)	row
aan (Tr)	bring	khodh (Tr)	dig out
it ^a raa (I)	vulgarise	khol (Tr)	open
ukhaR (I)	be uprooted	gan (Tr)	count
ukhaaR (Tr)	uproot	gaR (I)	prick
ug (I)	rise	gaRh (Tr)	concoct
ugar (Tr)	vomit, disclose	gal (I)	melt
ucar (I)	seem, caw	galaa (Tr)	melt
uTh (I)	get up	gaa(b) (Tr)	sing
utar (I)	descend	gaaR (Tr)	bury under
utaar (Tr)	bring down	gii (Tr)	mix, spoil
unaT/ulaT (I)	turn upside down	giiR (Tr)	swallow
unTaa (Tr)	reverse	guu ⁿ th (Tr)	wreathe
upaj (I)	grow	ghaT (I)	be less
uR (I)	fly	ghaTaa (Tr)	subtract
a ⁿ eTh (I)	be obstinate	ghasak (I)	go off
ochaa (Tr)	prepare bed	ghas ^a kaa (Tr)	dislodge
odar (I)	be shaven off	gher (Tr)	encircle
odaar (Tr)	uproot	cabaa (Tr)	chew
oRh (Tr)	cover (oneself)	cal (I)	proceed
oRhaa (Tr)	cover (someone)	caah (Tr)	want
aunaa (I)	be vexed	cikar (I)	shout
a ⁿ us (Tr)	smear	ciikh (Tr)	taste
kaT (I)	cut	cuu(b) (I)	leak out
katar (Tr)	scissor up	cobh (Tr)	lick
kam (I)	be less	ca ⁿ uk (I)	shudder
kamaa (Tr)	earn	chap (I)	printed
kar (Tr)	do	chap ^a waa (Tr)	get published
kas (Tr)	tighten	chaa ⁿ T (Tr)	sort out
kasaa (I)	get tightened	chaap (Tr)	publish
kah (Tr)	say	chiTak (I)	splash
kaaT (Tr)	cut	chiRiaa (I/Tr)	scatter
kaan (I)	weep	chuuT (I)	get past

choR (Tr)	leave	toR (Tr)	break
jap (Tr)	pray	tyaag (Tr)	relinquish
jam (I)	accrue, freeze	thakuc (Tr)	trample
jar (I)	burn	thamh (Tr)	support
jaa (I)	go	thaak (I)	be tired
jaag (I)	be awake	thop (Tr)	lay upon
jaa ⁿ t (Tr)	massage	dab (I)	be under
jaan (Tr)	know	dabaa (I)	be under
jiit (Tr)	win	daab (Tr)	trample under
jiitaa (Tr)	help win	duuh (Tr)	milk
juR (I)	be glued	de (Tr)	give
juRaa (Tr)	be glued	dekh (Tr)	see
jot (Tr)	yoke, plough	daug (I)	run
joR (Tr)	join	dhar (Tr)	keep, hold
jhagaR (I)	quarrel	dhas (I)	crumble down
jhaTak (Tr)	throw	dhuus (Tr)	scorn, beat
jhapaT (I)	stir	dhop (Tr)	chide
jharak (I)	be roasted	naac (I)	dance
jhar ^a kaa (Tr)	roast	naap (Tr)	measure
jhalak (I)	show up	nikal (I)	come out
jhal ^a kaa (Tr)	be shown up	nikaal (Tr)	throw out
jhuk (I)	bend down	niip (Tr)	annoint
jhuul (I)	hang	noc (Tr)	scratch
Tap (Tr)	overtake	pakaa (Tr)	cook
Taa ⁿ k (Tr)	stick, tack	pac (I)	be digested
Taar (Tr)	avoid	paThaa (Tr)	send
Tiip (Tr)	knead, wink	paR (I)	fall
TuuT (I)	break	paRh (Tr)	study
Tok (Tr)	interrupt	palaT (I)	turn back
Thak (Tr)	cheat	pasar (I)	spread
Thaan (Tr)	be adamant	pasaar (Tr)	spread out
Thuus (Tr)	fill, insert	paak (I)	be cooked, be scorched
Thel (Tr)	push	paa(b) (Tr)	get
Thok (Tr)	tap, beat	pii(b) (Tr)	drink
Dar (I)	fear	phaT (I)	be torn
Daraa (Tr)	frighten	phar (I)	bear fruit
Daa ⁿ T (Tr)	abuse	pha ⁿ s (I)	be trapped
Duub (I)	drown	pha ⁿ saa (Tr)	trap (indirectly)
Dol (I)	swing	phaa ⁿ k (Tr)	throw eatables in mouth
Dhak (I)	cover	phaaT (I)	be torn
Dhah (I)	crumble	phaan (Tr)	jump
Dho (Tr)	carry	phaaR (Tr)	tear off
tar (I)	cross	phaa ⁿ s (Tr)	trap (directly)
taak (Tr)	look for	phur (I)	strike in mind
tiit (I)	get wet	phuuT (I)	be broken

phe ⁿ k (Tr)	throw	mar (I)	be killed
pho (Tr)	break, dissolve	maang (Tr)	demand, ask for
bac (I)	be saved	maar (Tr)	kill
ba ^{ca} a (Tr)	save	rakh/raakh (Tr)	keep
baj (I)	ring	raT (Tr)	memorize
bajaa (Tr)	call	rah (I)	remain, stay
ba ⁿ T (I)	be distributed	ruuk (I)	stop
ba ⁿ Taa (I)	be distributed	ruus (I)	be piqued
bar (I)	be lit	rok (Tr)	stop
baraa (I)	be lit up	laag (I)	touch at, feel
baa ⁿ c (I)	be saved	luuT (Tr)	loot
baaj (Tr)	speak out	le (Tr)	take
baa ⁿ T (Tr)	distribute	leT (I)	lie down
baar (Tr)	light	lep (Tr)	plaster
bais (I)	sit	saj (I)	dress up
bhar (Tr)	fill	saR (I)	rot
bhaRak (I)	be unnerved	suut (I)	sleep
bhaag (I)	run away	ha ⁿ T (I)	withdraw
bhuuj (Tr)	fry	ha ⁿ s (I)	laugh
mangwaa (Tr)	get someone bring	haa ⁿ k (Tr)	shout

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